

Town Meeting Agenda

January 29, 2001 7:30 p.m.

Presentation of 8K Race
Proceeds to Kensington Parkwood
Elementary School PTA

Proposed New Building for
American Self Storage

Vote on Proposed Modifications to
General Parking Restrictions and Residential
Parking Areas (enclosed)

Permit Parking Stickers

Notification will be sent to all residents
on designated permit parking streets
prior to issuance of new stickers. If you have
any questions, contact Louise Hamilton,
Code Enforcement.

Proposed Modifications to Section 4-201 (General Parking Restrictions) and Section 4-208 (Residential Parking Areas)

Be it resolved that Section 4-201 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to add subsection (d) as follows: It shall be unlawful to park boats, trailers, campers or recreational vehicles on any Town street or public right-of-way for greater than forty eight hours;

That Section 4-208 (g) is hereby amended as follows [add the following to the end of the second sentence]: “one per vehicle, for vehicles registered at the household address.”;

That Section 4-208 (h) is hereby amended as follows [add the following new sentence]: “Permits will only be issued one per vehicle and are only valid on vehicles registered to the household address.”;

That Section 4-208 (i)(1) is hereby amended as follows: Residents who have permits for their vehicles may request visitor passes (up to two per household) for guest use. Visitor passes must note the address to which they were issued and visitor passes are not transferable. and that

Section 4-208 (i)(2) is hereby repealed in its entirety;

Scholarships Available

Once again, the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League is offering two \$1500 scholarships to students involved in community service and who plan a career in government or public service. For further information or for an application, contact Pat McAuley at the Town Office.

Wanted: Parade & Festival Coordinator For Labor Day 2001

The Town is looking for a new coordinator for our biggest annual event that draws thousands of participants and spectators. This position will be monetarily compensated. It is a great opportunity for an outgoing retired person, stay-at-home parent or anyone else that is interested in being appointed Parade Coordinator. The coordinator should be available during the summer months. He or She will have support of the Town staff and benefit from an organized library of contacts, registration and other forms, budgets and more. Please contact Mayor Raufaste if you are interested in this position or need more information.

Ethics Commission Report

All three members of the Town Ethics Commission – Roger Langsdorf, Ted Rosche and Fred Zusy – attended a state-wide Ethics Conference in Annapolis which took up such topics relating to public officials and employees as conflicts of interest, financial disclosure, gifts, confidential information and open meetings of official bodies. Among those leading the work group sessions were John E. O'Donnell, the Executive Director of the State Ethics Commission; Nancy L. Speck, General Counsel of the Commission; and representatives of the Baltimore and Annapolis governments and of the Montgomery County Board of Education Ethics Panel.

As a result of these discussions, members of the Town Ethics Commission suggested that Town residents be made aware of the general provisions of the Kensington Public Ethics Code. Accordingly, key provisions of this code are summarized below (the full text is available in the Town office).

Kensington Public Ethics Code

The Town of Kensington, recognizing that its system of representative government is dependent in part on people maintaining the highest trust in its public officials and employees, finds and declares that the public has a right to be assured that the impartiality and independent judgement of public officials and employees will be maintained. For the purpose of guarding against improper influence, the Town Council enacts this Article to require town officials and employees to disclose their financial affairs and to set minimum standards for the conduct of Town business....

Officials and employees of the Town of Kensington...shall not;

- + participate on behalf of the Town in any matter which would have a direct financial impact on them, their immediate family or a business entity with which they are employed or in which they have a direct financial interest....

- + represent any party, for a contingent fee, before any Town body....

- + use the prestige of their office for their own private gain....

- + use confidential information acquired in their official Town capacity for personal gain....

- + hold any outside employment relationship that would impair their impartiality or independence of judgement....

No official of the Town of Kensington may knowingly accept any gift or gifts of greater than \$50 in value from any person, firm or corporation, who the official knows is doing or seeking to do business with the Town, is engaged in activities which are regulated or controlled by the Town or has a financial interest which may be substantially and materially affected by the performance or nonperformance of said official's duties....

All officials, non-incumbent candidates for elective office and proposed appointees shall disclose to the Ethics Commission the details of any conflict of interest which they may have with any contemplated action by the Town, resulting from any financial interest in such action or any economic impact which such action may have on them.

Town officials shall file annually no later than January 31 of each calendar year a statement with the Town's Clerk-Treasurer disclosing all gifts in excess of \$25 in value or a series of gifts totaling \$100 or more in value received in the preceding calendar year from any one person or entity doing business with, seeking to do business with, or subject to the regulatory authority of the Town.

Each lobbyist shall file a registration statement with the Clerk-Treasurer no later than January 31 of the calendar year in which the lobbyist intends to appear and/or communicate with the Town (or within 20 days after making such appearance or communication). All lobbyists shall file an annual report disclosing any gift provided to a Town official.

Proposed Section to be added to the Town Code Article3, Public Ethics.

Section2-308A. Other Potential Conflicts of Interest

Each official or employee of the Town who is subject to this Article shall publicly disclose any personal interest (in addition to any possible financial interest) which such official or employee may have in any action proposed or contemplated to be taken by or on behalf of the Town.

Town of Kensington's Founders' Day

In May 2001, we will continue the tradition of celebrating Founders' Day in Kensington. This is an event where the residents and businesses join forces to honor our volunteers, visit with friends and neighbors, enjoy refreshments, and more. We need a chairperson and committee to plan this community event. Please call Mayor Raufaste if you are interested in helping.

Town Flags Available

Town Flags are available for purchase at the Town Office at manufacturer's cost of \$50.00. Small desk flags are available for \$6.00. These make great gifts (realtors who sell a home in Kensington-take note!).

Mayor's Report

Howard Avenue Revitalization

Avenue banner poles will be installed behind the brick wall along the railroad tracks sometime in the next few weeks. As soon as the contractors for Montgomery County receive authorization from the utility company the installation will begin.

Metropolitan Avenue

No update

Meetings and Events Attended by the Mayor

The Mayor was invited to join a meeting sponsored by Montgomery County Department of Economic Development to share ideas for seminars. Discussion centered around the need for seminars, planning and locations. This was the first of several planning meetings to be held over the course of several months.

The Mayor attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Shoppers Food Warehouse in White Flint. The store has a Kensington address that prompted the invitation.

The Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer Pat McAuley had a meeting with a consultant hired by Montgomery County to discuss the possibility of the County taking over all municipal stormwater management and facility inspections in Montgomery County. The consultants will meet with each municipality and then make a report to Montgomery County Director of Public Works.

The Mayor attended the Wheaton-Kensington Chamber of Commerce monthly Board meeting.

The Mayor, Council Member Pfautz, and Clerk Treasurer McAuley attended the November meeting of the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League. Chief of Police Charles Moose was the guest speaker.

The Mayor and Council Members walked Dupont Avenue to discuss problems and remedies for improving the appearance of the commercial area on the west side of Connecticut Avenue.

The Mayor and Council Member Chris Bruch attended a meeting with State Highway Administration to discuss ideas for the Armory Avenue reconfiguration.

The Mayor held a meeting to discuss a grade separated crossing at the train station. Maryland Mass Transit conducted a feasibility study over the last two years. At this meeting they presented a plan for tunneling under the tracks. Representatives from Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission, MMT, CSX, MARC, and

State Highway Administration were in attendance. The Mayor is exploring ideas by communicating with County and State officials to find ways to fund this project. We are planning ahead for the changes that will take place when the cement plant moves in March of 2002.

Announcements from the Mayor's Desk

December 3rd the Town held it's Annual Tree Lighting. We thank Robyn Mayhew, who chaired the event, for another great gathering of Town citizens and friends from the community. Thanks to the Kensington Business District Association and Café' Monet for providing juice and coffee and kudos to the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department for bringing Santa on a fire tuck. Thanks to Jason Swane for his portrayal of "you know who". The Levine School provided us with sounds of the holiday season and we are grateful to them. A special thanks goes to Myers and Laws Tree Service for their service in decorating our holiday tree. They really "stepped up to the plate" at a critical time before the event!! Montgomery Municipal Cable recorded the event. A great time was had by all!

Our condolences are extended to the family of Ann Barch, a longtime Town resident. She was the mother of Jackie Jones, mother-in-law of former Mayor Jack Jones, and sister of Frank Kennedy.

Council Member Bruch's Report

Infrastructure

Council Member Bruch received an unsatisfactory response from the State Highway Administration (SHA) in response to our request to modify the Metropolitan Avenue/Plyers Mill Road traffic signal operation. He will continue to contact SHA and County transportation officials until the Town's concerns have been satisfactorily addressed.

On Saturday, November 18th, he met with the Mayor and Council Members Pfautz and Tucker to tour Dupont Avenue west of Connecticut Avenue. Numerous Code violations were observed on this one-block section of Dupont. Also, business operators voiced concerns about insufficient on-street parking. He is hopeful that the Town will consider modifying parking regulations including Town employee parking policies and in return, certain businesses will clean up their properties including buildings and grounds. An improved and cleaned-up Dupont Avenue is good for everyone, especially the businesses in that area of Town.

Council Member Pfautz's Report

Traffic & Safety

On November 9th, Council Member Pfautz attended a hearing of the Montgomery County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly regarding MC 109-01: legislation to require that purchasers of properties within a historic district are notified of restrictions

and guidelines and contact information for the Historic Preservation Commission in advance of their purchase.

She attended a meeting of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Traffic Issues to hear speakers on pedestrian safety issues.

Council Member Pfautz toured the Montgomery County transportation management center.

She attended the Wheaton Kensington Chamber of Commerce dinner on November 29th. County Council Member Blair Ewing was the speaker.

On December 5th, Council Member Pfautz, along with Mayor Raufaste and Clerk Treasurer McAuley attended the Maryland Municipal League, Montgomery County Chapter, Holiday Celebration. League meetings and functions are a great opportunity to meet with other municipal officials and discuss issues of common concern.

On December 8th, she, Mayor Raufaste, and Council Member Bruch met with State and County traffic officials to discuss options for the light at Plyers Mill Road and Metropolitan Avenue.

Worksession of Mayor & Council

November 6, 2000

Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Bruch, O'Donnell, Pfautz, and Tucker, Clerk Treasurer McAuley, Director of Public Works Joel, and Code Enforcement Officer Hamilton were present and the following issues were addressed:

Tenants at a parcel of land on the west side of Farragut Avenue (10736 Connecticut Avenue address) requested a curb cut to access this property. They were informed that such a request must come from the property owner. Further, the Town will check to ensure that their business complies with the zoning for that property.

The Mayor updated the Council on a proposed pedestrian tunnel under the CSX tracks west of the train station that is being considered by the State and County.

Council voted unanimously to support Historic Preservation Commission Staff recommendations for Historic Area Work Permits at 10312 Kensington Parkway and 3908 Baltimore Street. It will withhold an opinion on the application for 3708 Washington Street until the Local Advisory Panel issues a recommendation.

Proposed parking restrictions on Hadley Place will be discussed at a later time.

Council Member Bruch will write a letter to the State Highway Administration asking for a status report on the traffic light study on Metropolitan Avenue at Plyers Mill Road.

The Project List was reviewed and updated.

The minutes were reviewed for corrections and additions.

The incoming correspondence of the past month was reviewed.

Town Meeting

November 27, 2000

The Meeting was Called to Order by Mayor Raufaste at 7:35 p.m. with Council Members Bruch, O'Donnell, Pfautz, and Tucker, Clerk Treasurer McAuley, and Director of Public Works Joel Present.

State Highway Administration staff presented alternative schematics for the reconfiguration of Armory Avenue at Connecticut Avenue.

Reports were presented by the Mayor, Council, and Staff.

Council Members Bruch and Pfautz will review requests for additional painted crosswalks on Town streets.

Council Actions

The October minutes were unanimously approved as printed.

Council Member Bruch moved to request that the State Highway Administration study Alternative I with the detail (a closure of the current entrance to Armory Avenue from Connecticut Avenue and a redesigned entrance at Baltimore Street), but eliminate the proposed sidewalk on the west side of the island adjacent to Connecticut Avenue. Seconded and passed unanimously. The Mayor abstained from concurring due to the close proximity of the project to her home.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat McAuley, Clerk Treasurer

Worksession of Mayor & Council

December 11, 2000

Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Bruch, Pfautz, and Tucker, Clerk Treasurer McAuley, Director of Public Works Joel and Code Enforcement Officer Hamilton were present. Council Member O'Donnell was necessarily absent. The following issues were addressed:

Council Member Pfautz moved to oppose the retroactive Historic Area Work Permit for 3802 Washington Street and request that the Historic Preservation Commission requires that the greenspace be restored to its original configuration. Seconded and passed unanimously with the Mayor concurring.

Council Member Pfautz moved to approve Sandy Spring Theater Group's use of the Drill Hall for theater performances pending details to be mutually worked out between the Town and the group. Seconded and passed unanimously with the Mayor concurring.

A volunteer citizen committee will be formed to nominate local businesses for a beautification award. The award will be presented during the Founders' Day Celebration in the spring.

Following a State Ethics Conference in Annapolis, the Town's Ethics Committee, forwarded a report with recommendations to the Mayor and Council. This report will be inserted in the Town *Journal* and will be forwarded to the Charter Review Committee for its review.

The Project List was reviewed and updated.

Correspondence received since the last Worksession was reviewed.

Town Meeting

December 11, 2000

The Meeting was Called to Order, immediately following the Worksession, by Mayor Raufaste with Council Members Bruch, Pfautz and Tucker, and Clerk Treasurer McAuley present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In the interest of time, Mayor, Council and Staff gave abbreviated reports. More detailed reports will be printed in the Town *Journal*.

Council Actions

Council Member Bruch moved to approve the November Minutes as printed. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Council Member Tucker moved to Introduce amendments to the Parking Regulations. Seconded. Discussion: It was moved to amend Section to read "more than 48 hours". Seconded and passed unanimously. The revised amendments to the Parking Regulations were then passed unanimously.

The Council concurred that the Town website could host a web page for the Kensington Historical Society.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat McAuley, Clerk Treasurer

Contact us at 301-949-2424. E-Mail mayor.council@tok.org. Fax 301-949-4925
3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD 20895